



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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Virginia Emergency Operations Center

Hazardous Materials Incident
Situation Report #3
As of 1000 hours, 16 March 2005

Situation:

Arlington County fire department reported that on Thursday, March 10, 2005, a detection alarm alert was activated on a machine that tests for anthrax bacteria at the Pentagon Remote Delivery Facility (RDF), located in Arlington County. It was determined to be false and no additional alarms were noted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On Monday, March 14, 2005, Arlington County Fire Department and Hazardous Materials Units responded to the RDF following a lab report indicating positive for the presence of anthrax. The RDF was evacuated while tests were conducted.

On Monday, March 14, 2005, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue along with Hazardous Materials units reported a response to a second Department of Defense mail facility referred to as the Skyline facility, located at 5111 Leesburg Pike, Bailey's Crossroads area, reference a mail handler alarm on mail coming from the Pentagon. Mailroom personnel (approximately 45) were decontaminated and the remaining personnel (approximately 2000) were sheltered in place until testing was completed. Personnel were questioned and released at approximately 2100 hours, 14 March.

Lab samples were taken from both facilities and forwarded to Ft. Dietrich, MD for additional testing. *Awaiting confirmatory test results.*

Pentagon medical officials placed approximately 263 personnel on 3 day Cipro antibiotic regimen.

Filters from machines located in the RDF and the Skyline facility are being collected and sent to Fort Dietrich for testing.

George W. Foresman, Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, described the situation in the Richmond Times-Dispatch as, "being up and down a lot. That's the nature of crises." While the investigation and response continue, Mr. Foresman requested a timeline of the incident.

"Working to Protect People, Property and Our Communities"

CONTIGUOUS STATES ACTIVITIES:

Washington, D.C.

- Approximately 150 postal workers at upstream postal facility located at V Street receiving 3 day Cipro regimen through D.C. Health Department.

Maryland

- Monitoring situations in Virginia and Washington, D.C.

ONGOING STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

Arlington County

- Arlington County Emergency Operations Center operational as of 1823 hours, 14 March, with minimal staffing and continues to monitor situation awaiting confirmatory test results.
- *Arlington County EOC closed as of 0800 hours 16 March.*
- *The Pentagon RDF facility remains closed at this time.*

Fairfax County

- Fairfax County partially activated its Alternate Emergency Operations Center as of 1630, 15 March and stood down at 1930 hours.
- Unified Command was established with representatives from local and federal officials to include Department of Defense, FBI and Health Departments. Fairfax County Health Department is lead local agency.
- Fairfax County conducted 1130 press conference at Skyline Facility, 15 March.
- Law enforcement investigation ongoing.
- *Fairfax County police, fire and rescue remain on the scene.*
- *The Skyline complex remains closed today as additional testing continues.*

Virginia Department of Health

- Additional staff deployed to Health District Alternate Operations Center.
- Staff continues to answer hot line (703) 246-2411.
- Monitor confirmatory test results through Department of Consolidated Laboratory Services.
- Requested that CDC be prepared to deploy Vendor Management Inventory (VMI) from CDC for supply of prophylactic medications appropriate to situation.
- Planning continues for setting up dispensing site beginning at 0900 hours, 16 March, located at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22036, if necessary.
- Activated VDH Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) at 1300 hours, 15 March, exchanging Liaison Officer with VDEM.
- Continue sharing information with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies.
- Moving antibiotics to Fairfax with assistance from Virginia State Police (VSP). Developing evolving Public Information products.
- Participating on multiple conference calls.
- Continue to monitor Pentagon and Skyline incidents awaiting confirmatory test results.

Virginia State Police

- *Completed assisting VDH with movement of antibiotics from state pharmacy to Fairfax County Health Department at 1300 hours 15 March.*

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

- The Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) augmented staff as of 0800 hours, 15 March, and elevated to increased readiness status.
- The National Capital Region Joint Information Center was activated, as of 1300 hours, 15 March, at Fairfax County Alternate Emergency Operations Center. *The center closed at 2200 hours on 15 March and reopened at 0800 hours 16 March. All media inquiries should be directed to the JIC at 703-502-6082, TTY 711.*
- VDEM Regional Hazardous Materials Officer and Local Support Services Regional Coordinator assisting localities as requested.
- Continue to monitor situation awaiting confirmatory test results.
- Participating on multiple conference calls.

PROJECTED ACTIONS:

- Secure shift rotation support for prolonged activities (VDH, VDEM).
- VDH assist in deployment of Health Department personnel from unaffected areas, if needed, to support Northern Virginia efforts.
- Monitor health care facilities for evidence of symptomatic patients, pending incubation period (VDH).
- Assist localities as needed in planning for potential dispensing of prophylaxis, if required.
- Continue to coordinate public information/press releases.
- Continue to monitor situation and participate in conference calls.

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